

REMARKS

Initially, in the Office Action dated January 28, 2004, the Examiner objects to claim 1 because of an informality. Claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 10-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,739,879 (Tsai) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,021,931 (Matsui et al.). Claims 6 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the present response, Applicant has canceled claims 8, 9, 15, 16 and 18 without disclaimer. Applicant has amended claims 1, 10-12 and 17 to further clarify the invention. Claims 1-7, 10-14 and 17 remain pending in the present application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 6 and 9 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 has been objected to because of informalities. Applicant has amended this claim to further clarify the invention and respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 10-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsai in view of Matsui et al. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Regarding claims 8, 15, 16 and 18, Applicant has canceled these claims therefore rendering these rejections moot.

Regarding claim 1, Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 9, deemed allowable by the Examiner and, therefore, Applicant submits that this claim is patentable over the cited references.

Regarding claims 2-5, 7, 10-14 and 17, Applicant submits that these claims are dependent on independent claim 1 and, therefore, are patentable at least for the same reasons noted regarding this independent claim.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that none of the cited references, taken alone or in any proper combination, disclose, suggest or render obvious the limitations in the combination of each of claims 1-5, 7, 10-14 and 17 of the present application. Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that claims 1-7, 10-14 and 17 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

U.S. Application No. 10/038,603

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing attorney docket no. 367.40919TRN).

Respectfully submitted,

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